

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for operating a computer network to direct transmission of a document from a user on the network to an intended recipient not on the network by electronic transmission ~~by~~ using a method of general document recognition, the general document recognition method comprising the steps of

- (a) receiving a document from a user on the network to be transmitted to a recipient;
- (b) testing the document against a set of previously defined rules to assign to the document a document type from a set of previously identified document types;
- (c) extracting data from the document, based on previously defined rules associated with that document type, the extracted data identifying the either the intended destination or the intended recipient of the document;
- (d) if the extracted data identifies the intended destination of the document, then sending the document by facsimile transmission to that destination;
- (e) if the extracted data identifies the intended recipient for the document, then: (i) sending a query to a ~~data base~~ database containing destination information associated with a pre-defined set of recipients, the query identifying the recipient and requesting as a response a destination associated with the intended recipient, and (ii) upon receiving a response to the query, sending the document by electronic transmission to that destination.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the document type is identified by the name of the file containing the document.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the document type is recognized by a test string contained in the document.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the system organizes the document by pages based on rules associated with the document type.

5. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein during the data extraction step, if instructed to do so by the rules associated with that document type, searching the document for a character string associated with destination information.

6. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein during the data extraction step, if instructed to do so by the rules associated with that document type, searching the document for a recipient identifier.

7. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the data base of recipients in an LDAP ~~data base~~ database.

8. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the electronic transmission of the document is by facsimile transmission.

9. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the electronic transmission of the document is by e-mail transmission.

10. (New) A method for operating a computer network to direct transmission of a document from a user on the network to an intended recipient not on the network by electronic transmission using a method of general document recognition, the general document recognition method comprising the steps of

- (a) receiving a document from a user on the network to be transmitted to a recipient not on the network;
- (b) in the network, testing the document against a set of previously defined rules to assign to the document a document type from a set of previously identified document types;
- (c) extracting data from the document, based on previously defined rules associated with that document type, the extracted data identifying the either an intended destination by telephone number or an intended recipient of the document;
- (d) if the extracted data identifies the intended destination of the document, then sending the document by facsimile transmission to that destination telephone number;
- (e) if the extracted data identifies the intended recipient for the document, then: (i) sending a query to a database containing destination information associated with a pre-defined set of recipients outside of the network, the query identifying the recipient and requesting as a response a destination telephone number associated with the intended recipient, and (ii) upon receiving a response to the query, sending the document by electronic facsimile transmission to that destination telephone number provided by the database.